

WASHINGTON.

"LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOREVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE."

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1864.

PARTISAN EXAGGERATION.

We have always been in the habit of looking to the North American Review for the reflection of ideas which appeal to the intelligence and candor of the public. Its views of political affairs under former editors have always been positive and definite, but they were stated without exaggeration and without partisan vehemence. Its present conductors, we regret to observe, prescribe to themselves a different rule of conduct, and address a different class of readers. They have impressed on the Review a character for partisanship which does not require report for even the appearance of accuracy in a statement that appeals to current political hatreds. For instance, in the July number just received, in an article on the "National Currency," we read as follows:

"A Union victory on a battle field or at the polls depresses the price of gold; a rebel victory at a Northern election sends it up. Jefferson Davis, the Southern army, General Longstreet and Lee, and the Northern Democrats are the bulls of the market; Lincoln, Chase, Grant, Sherman, and Meade, our brave troops, and the loyal and patriotic men of the North are the bears. Gold will fall as they rise in power, and the legal-tender notes, if skillfully managed by the Treasury, as the great war draws to a successful close, will increase in value, and when it ends be at par every where, and, like the notes of the Bank of the United States, sometimes and in some places, above par."

Every body knows that there is no foundation for this statement, so far as it affirms that "a Union victory at the polls depresses the price of gold," or that a "rebel victory" in a "Northern election" causes a rise in the price of gold. By a "Union victory at the polls" the writer means a Republican triumph, and by a "rebel victory" a success of the party opposed to the Administration. And yet, with the blind fatuity of the partisan, he establishes a connection of cause and effect, where every reader is able to penetrate its fallacy; for every body knows that at the last elections which have been held in the country the Republican party has prevailed, even in States previously Democratic, by majorities the most overwhelming and unprecedented, and as it is certain that the price of gold has subsequently gone up with accelerated velocity, the truth of the writer's statement can be substantiated only on the supposition that the Administration party is the party whose triumph has had the effect of a "rebel victory." And then, if the reviewer's analysis of the monetary situation be exhaustive or sound as far as it goes, when he says that legal-tender notes will increase in value "as the war draws to a successful close," it follows that, according to his logic, the prospect of "a successful close of the war" is growing constantly less and less, for gold, instead of "increasing in value" as measured by Treasury notes, has been steadily declining for the last few months. But, as we are sure the author does not intend to say all this, it is charitable to suppose that he meant only to show how recklessly a partisan can use words to convey to the passions a meaning which they contradict to the reason of every reader. We hope the North American Review will leave a monopoly of this style to the professional partisan press.

Besides, something more of vivacity is pardoned to the haste of daily journalism, than to the deliberation of a periodical which speaks only four times a year. We are the more emboldened to make this suggestion to the leading quarterly of our country because we are pleased to find in another article of the current number some judicious reflections on grave questions of public concern, to which we shall call the attention of our readers at an early day.

GEN. WILSON'S RIDE.

To comprehend the extent of Gen. Wilson's daring ride into the interior of Virginia every reader should take a map—a common railroad map will do—and follow from point to point the operations of the force under Wilson and Knaut.

They set out from their camp, near Prince George's Court-House, at two o'clock in the morning of the 24th of June. They crossed the Norfolk and Petersburg railroad about five miles below Petersburg, and made at once for the Weldon railroad, which they struck at Roanoke, a distance ten miles south of Petersburg. From here they struck across the country northwesterly till they reached the Petersburg and Danville railroad at Sutherland's, ten miles west of Petersburg. Here the work of destruction began. At Ford's, ten miles further west, two locomotives, a train of sixteen cars, and various depots with stores were destroyed; and after working at this all night the force moved on the morning of the 25th along the railroad till they reached Burkeville, where the Danville and the Lynchburg railroads cross each other. Here, as well as at Nottingham, east of the crossing, the work of destruction was made very complete. At Nottingham a force of the enemy was met and beaten after a short engagement. Gen. Wilson now turned back toward the Danville railroad, which he destroyed for thirty-six miles, from Burkeville to Roanoke station, where, at a bridge, the enemy had gathered a force too heavy for our warriors to encounter without great danger. All the places we have mentioned are marked upon common railroad maps. The manner in which the work of destruction was carried on is thus described by a newspaper correspondent:

"Being without proper iron rails the rebels were forced to resort to the old fashioned method of laying string pieces, on which were fastened long strips of iron to prevent the wheels from working out under the pressure of the train. To burn this entire road from Burkeville to Staunton bridge was a matter of comparative ease. A portion of the cavalry dismounted and marched by the flank along the railroad. Being halted they were fired upon, and the string pieces were set on fire, being lit by the flank again, more further down the road until the ignited portion was passed by the rearward men. Another halt would be ordered and the operation above described again repeated. In this manner they were enabled to move over and destroy an enormous space of the railroad in a short time. In burning the road depots from Keyville to the Staunton bridge, a distance of some twenty miles, less than two-thirds of a day was occupied. The intense heat thrown out from this extensive line of flame rendered the vicinity untenable. Not only were the roads forced to move by distant roads, but even the inhabitants found their local habitations too hot to hold them, and were forced to make temporary changes beyond its suffocating influence."

In this way they destroyed over sixty miles of railroad track, five depots, blacksmiths' shops, machine shops, and stores; and finally rode back across the country, fought a battle on the 30th, and then moved on to the James, where they have safely arrived, after a ride which tested to the utmost the endurance and courage of the men and the capacity and genius of their leader. Their success is of a substantial kind, the fruits of which we shall see before many days pass.

The miniature bird vision was spoken at noon on the 29th ultimo by a pilot boat, forty-five miles east of Fire Island. The vision had all sails set.

THE NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY.

The people of the United States are this day called to commemorate the Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence made by the Continental Congress on the 4th of July, 1776.

The celebration of this holiday still finds us amid all the sights and sounds of civil war, being the fourth recurrence of the day under auspices that little befit the heart of the reflecting patriot to engage in its traditional festivities. For, if the proper commemoration of the day is no more than a just homage to the wisdom and virtue of our ancestors, it comes at the present time with a mournful sense of the political degeneracy which has forfeited for us the peaceful enjoyment of the rich heritage they bequeathed to their descendants. If it be true, as

"The poet sings,
"That a sorrow's crown of sorrow is remembering happier things,"
this nation has surely abundant reason to bow its head in anguish as memory contrasts its once happy estate with its present desperate condition. Never has a people so squandered the boons poured into its lap by the lavish kindness of a benignant Providence, and our want of gratitude for "the good and perfect gifts" which have been showered on us from Heaven is only excused by the strange insensibility that seems to harden the minds of the people under the awful judgments of Deity, now that He has come forth from His hiding-place to execute His vengeance and display His wrath. There are those among us who exult in the very magnitude of our calamities, and who point with undissembled pride to the prodigality with which we are spending our blood and treasure, as though the ghastly wounds of our body politic were not so many marks of shame and seals of sorrow. It is not in this spirit that a Christian people should accept the scourge of war, and especially a war thrust upon them by intestine strife and convulsion. Let us hope that the evil spirit under whose possessions our land is now rent and torn will soon be effectually cast out, and that at the next return of this anniversary of the Natal Day of our country its inhabitants may be found walking in the light of that wisdom all of whose ways are ways of pleasantness and all of whose paths are paths of peace. And in the mean time let each loyal citizen gird up the loins of his mind, and seek to develop in a time of war the virtues of self-sacrifice and patriotic devotion, that so

many a darkness with the light shall leap, And shine in the sudden making of splendid names, And noble thought be freer under the sun, And the heart of a people beat with one desire."

MARKS OF POLITICAL CORRUPTION.

The New York Observer, a religious journal, expresses the opinion that it is "an exaggeration to say that the cost of the war thus far has been one quarter more than it would have been had not the country been cheated by its own agents." All that fraud, which has been advantageous to the enemy and depleting and injurious to the Government, is now, it adds, as prevalent as ever. "No great example has been made of any swindler or thief. The majesty of a defrauded Government has not been vindicated. When will it be?"

Induced to make this painful reflection by the charges of fraud and corruption under which certain officials of the Government in New York and elsewhere have been recently arrested and put on trial, our contemporary proceeds to comment on this species of guilt at the present time as follows:

"There is one fact that makes the recent developments peculiarly disgusting to every right mind, and invests the crime of plundering the Government with an atrocity of wickedness having no parallel in the past history of our suffering country. It is that the money which is being drained every nerve to put down a gigantic rebellion, the cost of the war in money is the least of the expense, but this cost is enormous, frightful, and increasing at the rate of two, three, or four millions every day. It has reached such a load already that the nation staggers under it. At such a time as this it is the duty and the privilege of every citizen to give his own energies, business capacity, counsel, efforts, and prayers to the Government. We do not pretend to say that business men should not receive proper compensation for their services. The soldier in the field, the Senator, the President, the agent, is entitled to his lawful pay, and we do not expect to see a Washington again who will decline his salary while serving in the army. But lawful pay is one thing and cheating the country is another."

"The point we make, and on which we wish to fasten the attention of the public, is this: to take money from the Government unjustly at such a time is a crime more heinous in baseness only to that which has made Judas Iscariot infamous forever. The country needs every dollar it can raise. The people are now pressed down with taxation. The burden is only beginning to be felt. It is to be increased for years to come. The Government has a conflict on hand, and money is the shew of war. Every cent taken unjustly from it is so much direct help to the enemy; it weakens the hands of the Government; it strengthens the hands of the enemy. It is to be increased for years to come. The Government has a conflict on hand, and money is the shew of war. Every cent taken unjustly from it is so much direct help to the enemy; it weakens the hands of the Government; it strengthens the hands of the enemy. It is to be increased for years to come. 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